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THE TALON

April 17, 1997 Avila College 11901 Wornall Road Kansas City, Mo. 64145 Volume V, Issue 9

News Briefs

Attention December graduates

All students planning to graduate in Dec. 1997 must complete and turn in their application for graduation to the Registrar's office no later than April 25.

Theater auditions

Auditions for the Bell Road Barn Players production of *Fortinbras*, a comedy by Lee Blessing, will be held May 3 and May 4 at Park College. For more information, call 587-9218.

Senior Art Show

The 1997 Senior Exhibition for Avila's graphic design majors Shea Lauffer, Gloria Trusler and Julie Smith will be on display May 9 through May 18, in the Thornhill Gallery. The opening reception will be held from 7 p.m. to 9 p.m. on May 9 in Thornhill. Admission is free.

The Threepenny Opera

Avila Theater presents Bertolt Becht's *The Threepenny Opera* at 8 p.m., April 24 through April 26 and 2 p.m., April 27 in Goppert Theater. Avila students get in free. For ticket information, call 942-8400, ext. 2299.

Volunteer opportunities

The Heart of America/United Way Volunteer Center is looking for volunteers for outdoor work, adult tutoring, meal delivery and many other positions. For more information, contact Sarah Freese at 474-5112.

Experience the healing power of music

The Wellness Commitee invites all students, staff and faculty to join Music Therapist Janalea Hoffman, M.A., R.M.T., from 11:45 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., April 23 in the Barefoot Room of Marian Center.

Nominate the "Professor of the Year"

Nominate your favorite instructor for the Professor of the Year Award. Nomination forms are located on the bulletin boards in Marian Center. All nominations must be received no later than April 24.

Scholarship opportunity

Apply now for the 1997-98 Sponsors Award. Awards range from $250 to $2,000. To be eligible, students must have at least a 3.2 G.P.A and show financial need. Application deadline is April 30. For more information, contact the Financial Aid Office.

Kappa Delta Pi

Congratulations to the new inductees of Kappa Delta Pi, the International Honor Society in Education. Requirements for induction are a 3.3 GPA in education courses or a 3.0 GPA overall.

The new inductees are: Megan Tricia Thurman, Joanne Suther, Melitta Fullwood, Teresa Kay Hogan, Stephanie G. Hiegel, Tara Anne Huffman, Kim Burke, Lisa Renee Sowell, Brandy Lee Barnett, Johnna Young Fraise, Sabrina Susan Lunceford, Blane Ray Markley, Lynn Morehead, Molly L. Rittenhouse, Shelley Elsberry, Mary Jo Williams, Autumn Yvette Sawyer, Stephen Glenn Campbell, Sara Chilton Smith, Kevin Michael Clinton, Kathleen Coleman, Kim Sixta, Rhonda Fenner and Maureen O'Reily.

Registration begins

Pre-registration for Fall 1997 classes began this week. If you have not seen your adviser, do so, as classes will close rapidly.

Interview Day '97

by Ben Henry



photo by Joy Hyde

Brian Gay, above, interviewed with corporations and insurance firms from the KC area at Interview Day.

The annual COSMC-KC Interview Day, a program sponsored by Career Offices of Small Metropolitan Colleges of Kansas City (COSMC-KC), was held on April 2, at the Business Technology Association Conference Center.

This program, offered every spring, and now in its ninth year, provides an opportunity for students from 10 area colleges, including Avila, to be interviewed by several prospective employers in the same location and on the same day.

Among other qualifications, participating students must have either graduated in the preceding fall semester or be scheduled to graduate at the end of the spring semester.

"Although this does not help every student," said Gina Frigault, director of the Student Resource Center, "it is beneficial, in many ways, to those students who will be graduating."

Frigault continued, "One, it can provide any number of students with employment; two, it is an opportunity for students to become more comfortable with the interviewing process; three, students gain knowledge of some of the entry-level positions available to new graduates; four, many students have the opportunity to interview with more than one company on the same day, at the same place."

Of the 15 Avila students who signed up for Interview Day, 12 of them attended and had between one and eight interviews.

They were joined by students from Baker University, Benedictine College, Mid-America Nazarene College, Missouri Western State College, Ottawa University, Park College, Rockhurst College, Saint Mary College, and William Jewell College.

The total number of interviews was projected at close to 800.

"In this day and age," Frigault said, "employers cut back on schools they recruit from; so we try to assist employers to interview students from 10 different colleges in the same day."

The advantages to this program, according to Frigault, is that it is a win-win situation. Students get the chance to get a head start on their search for a job, while employers get the convenience of conducting interviews with many students, from multiple colleges, on the same day and at the same place.

The interviews usually last between 15 and 20 minutes. These are actually screening interviews that narrow down the list of potential employees based on characteristics such as attitude, communication skills and personality.

Those students that make the cut are contacted by the company for a follow-up interview.

All students interested in employment or internship opportunities should make a note to attend the Employer Fair, held at UMKC during the fall semester of each academic year.

New campus tobacco policy

by Amanda Nedrud

It has been passed by the Student Senate, now it is up in the air for debate. Should students be able to spit tobacco during class time?

"No!" Freshman Chris Gerlt said. "If I can't smoke during class, they shouldn't be able to spit during class."

The tobacco policy now on campus begins with the following statement. "Courtesy must be exercised at all times in the use of smoking and non-smoking tobacco by members of the Avila community and their guests." However, students have become offended with the use of non-smoking tobacco in classroom settings.

"Seeing someone's spit cup in class is disgusting," sophomore Julie Klutsarits said. "It's even worse watching someone spit all through class; it's repulsive."

According to Tom Lease, Vice President and Dean of Student Affairs, it is all right to hold non-smoking tobacco in your mouth, where neither tobacco nor saliva are expelled. However, using non-smoking tobacco where tobacco or saliva are expelled should be considered the same as smoking tobacco in regard to being allowed in the classroom and public areas. In other words, chewing tobacco should only be allowed outside or in the two designated smoking areas.

"Spitting doesn't affect anyone. Many people don't even know when I'm doing it," sophomore Kelly Hatfield said. "I need my tobacco, it's like a coffee for me."

Whatever the outcome of the debate, it will be one that could divide Avila in half.

Talon takes 10 at MCMA

by Deborah Wright

The magic number for members of *The Talon* staff, Saturday, April 5, was 10.

An awards ceremony was held at the Adams Mark Hotel after the Missouri College Media Association's (MCMA) two day conference April 4 and April 5.

Avila students walked away with 10 outstanding awards for writing in MCMA's Division Three.

Entries were submitted in January, following the 1996 calendar year. State judges rated entries on a point system. The system rates each component of the pieces submitted. The entries with the most points received honors.

Out of the articles submitted by Avila, 10 recieved awards. (Winning writers, awards, and categories are listed.)

Staff members who won the supplement category worked on the 1996 Avila welcome issue that was available the first week of classes in the fall.

The supplement was a four page edition that contained information about the Avila campus.

"Winning 10 different awards shows that we have a real staff, a team," Steve Iliff, Talon adviser, said.



photo by Clay Ransom

MCMA award winners. Back row, l to r, Kelly Turner, Dave Sheller, Joy Hyde. Front row, l to r, Sheri Porter, Katie Wilkerson, and Monica Bullock. Not pictured, Monica Haugsness, Ben Henry, and Aaron Murphy.

Kelly Turner	First Place	Editorial
Katie Wilkerson	First Place	Entertainment Review
Aaron Murphy	First Place	Entertainment Cartoon
Monica Bullock	Second Place	Sports Column
Sheri Porter	Second Place	Regular Column
Dave Sheller	Third Place	News Photography
Ben Henry	Third Place	Investigative Reporting
Joy Hyde	Honorable Mention	Investigative Reporting
Monica Haugsness	Honorable Mention	Feature Writing

Monica Bullock, Monica Haugsness, Joy Hyde, and Dave Sheller placed second in the Special Supplement/Section category.

Faculty to serve honor students

by Terri Stubblefield

At an ordinary dinner, students would not ask a faculty member to bring them another Coke, but then the Honors Banquet is no ordinary dinner.

April 26, 1997 will mark Avila's 11th Annual Honors Banquet. Students who have earned a place on the Dean's List and part-time students who are graduating with honors have been invited to attend the banquet to recognize their academic achievement.

What sets this banquet apart from other recognition dinners is that 20 to 25 faculty members have volunteered to wait tables that night.

Veteran volunteer Nancy Cervetti, assistant professor of English, said she really enjoys serving at the banquet

"It's nice seeing the students relaxed and having a good time,"Cervetti said.

Vice President and Dean of Academic Affairs, Sr. Marie Joan Harris, awaits the banquet with the excitement of a kid waiting for an approaching birthday.

"I love it! It's one of the nicest events that we have at Avila, and it's an opportunity to recognize those students who exemplify academic excellence," Sr. Marie said.

The evening festivities will begin with Mass at 4 p.m, a reception in Marian Center at 5 p.m. and dinner at 5:45 p.m..

The celebration will conclude with students and their guests receiving complimentary theater admission to the evening performance of *The Threepenny Opera,* presented by the theater program.

"The people who will be there make the Honors Banquet a great event," Sr. Marie said.

THE TALON

Now accepting staff applications for the 1997-1998 academic school year.

Positions available include:

Editor in Chief
Page Editors
Writers
Photographers
Advertising Sales
Production Assistants

For an application contact
Steve Iliff at 942-8400, ext. 2363

Rumble no more

by Terri Stubblefield

They went and changed the whole thing. Now, everybody can get in on the action. What was once a residence hall Rumble is now a campus wide Spring Fling. It all begins April 19 and continues through April 25.

In a collaborative effort between campus clubs, organizations, and resident students, a week of fun and merriment is in the works. "Everybody is welcome to participate in everything," Barb Remsburg, coordinator of residence life and volunteerism said.

Saturday, April 19, will be the kick-off event with a tailgate picnic outside Whitfield Center from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Events will continue on Monday, April 21. Participants can look forward to karaoke,volleyball, music therapy, whiffle ball, the Expressions show choir, The Friendship Game (which will be a rendition of the *Newlywed Game*), campus clean up, and even a pie throwing contest.

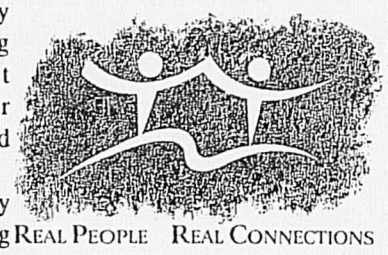
Look for Spring Fling fliers to be posted detailing the times and places for each event, and how you can get your free Spring Fling T-shirt.

Real people making real connections

by Libby Buss

Celebrate National Volunteer Week by picking up the telephone and calling Pat Cundiff, director of the Heart of America United Way Volunteer Center, and tell her you want to be a volunteer.

"Anyone can call the Volunteer Center and tell us what skills they have and, hopefully, we will be able to connect them to a non-profit organization that needs their help," Sarah Freese, Family Volunteering Project Coordinator for United Way, said.



REAL PEOPLE REAL CONNECTIONS

Kansas City is celebrating the 24th annual National Volunteer Week, April 13 through 19.

Established in 1974 by Presidential Proclamation, National Volunteer Week is sponsored by the Points of Light Foundation.

The purpose of this celebration is to honor those who volunteer, to encourage more people to volunteer, and to increase the public's awareness about the importance of volunteering.

This year's theme, "Volunteers: Real People—Real Connections," focuses on the positive impact of volunteers connecting with others to solve our country's serious social problems.

According to statistics compiled by The Points of Light Foundation, in conjunction with The Gallup International Institute, in 1995, an estimated 93 million people (18 years and older) volunteered an average of 4.2 hours per week—20.3 billion hours.

National Volunteer Week is also a part of campus life here at Avila.

Barb Remsburg, Avila's coordinator of residence life & volunteerism works with the Heart of America United Way to place students, staff and alumni volunteers with appropriate organizations in the community. She also coordinates Avila's National Volunteer Week.

"National Volunteer Week on campus will be extended this year through April 21," Remsburg said. "This gives us the opportunity to promote volunteerism for our campus clean-up and beautification project."

If you would like to help with the project, please call Remsburg at ext. 2370.

Student, faculty and alumni volunteers are also needed periodically for other Avila events.

"More than 50 volunteers were needed to assure the success of the recent Steer Dinner, Steve Kanaby, Avila's assistant to the director of development, said. "And another 30 to 35 will probably be needed in October for the annual Golf Classic."

Those interested in helping with the golf tournament, should call Kanaby at ext. 2422.

The Threepenny Opera

April 24 - April 27

Goppert Theater

FREE for all Avila students!!!

For reservations

942-8400 ext. 2299

answers to crossword on page 8



Nine confirmed in Foyle

by Diana Dierks

The smell of incense filled the room as a quiet gathering of people awaited the procession of nine nervous but excited individuals.

For six, this was the final sacrament they had to take to become members of a community they had always known.

The other three were entering into a community that was very new to them. A religious experience took place at Avila.

These nine individuals: Seth Eckelman, Kelli Koch, Christina Sexton, Reba Alicea, Frances Betzen, Mary Chapman, Therese Cox, Courtney Murphy and Jennifer Satlak were confirmed into the Catholic Church on Sunday, April 6. For Eckelman, Koch and Sexton, this ceremony was the step they had to take to be received into the Catholic faith. These three individuals have converted to Catholicism.

Koch had been attending Catholic services since 1989, but had not yet converted. " I wanted to make it official," Koch said.



photo by Clay Ransom
Nine were confirmed in Foyle Hall on April 6.

The other six individuals completed their Christian initiation with Confirmation. Satlak was raised Catholic, and Confirmation reaffirms this. "Confirmation means being accepted into the faith my parents brought me up in," Satlak said.

According to Father Daniel Torson, CPPS, confirmation leads a person into a lifetime of faith. Torson feels Christians must gather as a group. They are people of the word, and they need to read God's word. Torson also sees Christian life as a journey, and one must commit to that journey.

Torson has worked closely with these nine individuals as a means of preparation for confirmation. "I have really enjoyed working with all of them," Torson said.

As the chapel began to empty that Sunday, and the sound of song became faint, a feeling of life could still be felt. Not because of those who remained, but because of those who had just joined.

Fostering dorm life

by Melissa Mahoney

A resident assistant is an individual chosen by a selection team to fulfill the personal needs and maintain an interpersonal relationship with the residents of the halls of Avila College.

Resident assistant candidates go through interviews and group process activities.

At the end of the "carousel process" which is all done in one night, the selection team ranks the individuals on a scale from one being the least favorable to six being the most favorable.

"The selection is based on what was seen from the individuals that night." said Residence Hall Director Barb Remsburg.

The student life team made up of hall directors and current resident assistants decide the best candidate for the position.

The selection is also centered around the Avila values.

In the past, the process had been more skill-centered.

These sessions allow the candidates to get the same types of information about the openings and the entire process.

"In choosing resident assistants, we look for someone who works well with others in group settings." Remsburg said.

Many candidates applied for the resident assistant position, but only three were chosen for the 1997-98 academic school year.

Next year's selected resident assistants are Therese Cox, sophomore, Julie Klutsarits, junior and Shane Sands, senior. Others are returning for another year.

They will face the task of enhancing and promoting educational, personal, and social development within the students living in the residence halls.

Major leadership position left vacant: Branson not returning

by Laura Harris

A familiar face in the residence halls at Avila is leaving. Jim Branson, director of Carondelet residence hall and campus activities adviser, has turned in his resignation.

Tom Lease, vice president and dean for Student Affairs commented, "Yes, it is public knowledge that Jim has resigned. The resignation is effective at the end of his contract, which is June 30, 1997."

Branson has been at Avila for three years as the hall director for Carondelet. For three years, he has lived in his apartment on first floor, being accessible for any emergency that may arise.

Earlier this year, Branson was forced to leave his comfortable bed at 3 a.m. to assist a resident assistant who had two residents that had gotten locked in their room.

Branson has always been there for his residents. His tasks have ranged from lending an ear, being with sick residents, and even trying to extract an engagement ring from the drain of a shower.

Kate Lynn Egan, a former resident assistant, worked with Branson for a year and a half. "Jim is great; he's always there when you need him, no matter what it might be. Jim always works to make the residence life staff a family, not just a bunch of people working together."

Branson announced to staff members that he wished "to seek a non 'live-in' position... after seven years in such positions," stated Lease. Part of Branson's responsibility as coordinator of campus activities was working as an adviser for the Student Union Board (SUB).

SUB has brought many activities to Avila with the help of Branson.

SUB sponsors movies for students, lunch-time events, special events such as dances, and even a hypnotist.

Many students have expressed they will miss Branson and all the efforts he puts into making SUB events a success.

Lease stated how much Branson has done for the Avila community. "Students find him open, caring, honest and equitable as both an administrator and as an educator.

The faculty and staff relate to Jim most strongly in his sense of service to others, attention to details of production and willingness to go the extra mile with a smile.

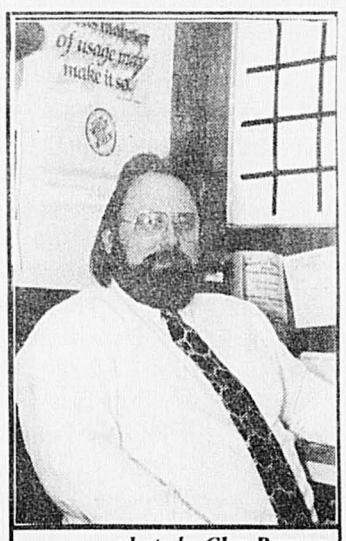


photo by Clay Ransom
Jim Branson will be leaving Avila in June.

While it is obvious that Branson has earned the right to surrender the keys to his dorm room, he will be missed by residents and staff alike.

Lease summed everything up when he said, "Jim represents the true spirit and understanding of developmental education and would be an asset to any institution of learning."

Music festival a success again

by Terri Stubblefield

At least 2,000 fingers glided over the piano keys, and song filled Goppert Theater as hundreds of voices belted out their best. There were harps, horns, strings, and bells. A 50 piece orchestra topped it off. After all was said and done, over 3,000 elementary and high school students participated in Avila's 52nd Annual Music Festival.

The festival, started in 1945 by Sr. M. de LaSalle McKeon, is the oldest and longest running music festival in the metropolitan area. "It is a tradition among music educators," said Cynthia Hukill, acting co-chair of humanities and acting coordinator of music at Avila.

Festival events last an average of seven days, and students from all over the metropolitan area and surrounding cities come to the festival to have their musical performances critiqued.

Music scholars from colleges and universities city-wide serve as judges for each of the events. The judges assign ratings to the performers, and while there are no prizes awarded, those receiving the highest ratings are invited back to perform in the Honors Concert held after the festival.

Preparing for such an event is a year long project. Planning for the 53rd festival will begin sometime this spring. "It's a tremendous job, but it's a lot of fun," Hukill said.

Students who plan to participate in the festival maintain a rigorous practice schedule.

The Lincoln College Preparatory Academy Men's Chorus was asked to return for the Honors Concert. Carl Stanley, a member, explained the group's committment to their music. "We practice at home, in church, and on the bus. You have to be dedicated; it's a lot of work," he said.

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Is Avila embracing global integration?

by Sheri Porter

Sitting in on an English as a Second Language (ESL) class, with 10 international students and instructor Marilyn Sheffer, provided some insight into how this segment of Avila's population lives.

Sheffer, who is in her fifth semester as an ESL instructor at Avila, handles her class with great affection, guiding them through this listening and speaking segment of the program like a mother hen with her chicks.

"This is an unusual class," Sheffer said, "because it is made up of only Taiwanese and Japanese students."

Normally Sheffer's classes include students from countries as varied as Russia, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Thailand, and Spain.

"Asian students have to learn freedom," Sheffer said, acknowledging the great respect that teachers are shown by these students in their home countries. "They don't want to offend you."

Before they can even enroll in a regular college curriculum, non-English speaking students must reach a specific level of proficiency in English, a level measured by the TOEFL (Test of English as Foreign Language). The ESL classes help to prepare students for this test, which is administered much like the ACT or SAT.

According to Sister Fran Maher, assistant registrar at Avila, the college is currently home to 75 international students including 26 undergraduates, 11 enrollees in graduate programs and 38 non-degree seeking students. Of this last group, 35 are students enrolled in Avila's ESL program.

Sheffer's 11 a.m. Monday morning class includes eight men and two women, none of whom seemed eager to share their stories, and they responded to reporter's questions only with gentle prodding from Sheffer.

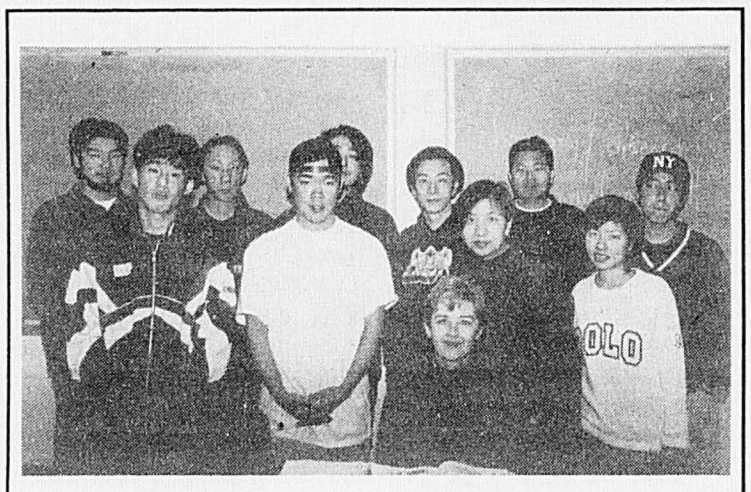


photo by Joy Hyde

Marilyn Sheffer has been teaching the English as a Second Language course at Avila for five semesters. Pictured above is Sheffer with her 11 a.m. class on Monday.

Japanese student Yoshio Kyoda came to the United States with his brother, who lives in New York. Sporting a black New York baseball cap, Kyoda said his adjustment to Avila was easy. "I felt comfortable the first week."

Feeling comfortable with friends who share the same cultural background may be easier than becoming integrated into the larger student body at Avila. The campus newspaper, *The Talon*, which represents the student voice of Avila, was unknown to all but two of the 10 students in the class.

Even more revealing was the revelation that Kyoda, who shares living quarters with *The Talon* copy editor Ben Henry, was not aware that his roommate was on the newspaper staff.

While having an American roommate should facilitate a speedier grasp of the language and assimilation into campus life, roommates Kyoda and Henry are proof that the solution is not so simple.

In a separate interview a few days later, Henry described his relationship with Kyoda.

"We respect one another but we do not have a deep friendship," he said. "We're just acquaintances."

In contrast, Henry remembers frequent socializing with his previous American roommate.

Kyoda agreed with Henry's assessment, adding that the language problem is a large obstacle to overcome.

> ***"We respect one another but we do not have a deep friendship"***

"My friends are all Japanese and can't speak English very well—he (Ben) is not comfortable with my friends," Kyoda said.

Henry occasionally invites Kyoda to join his group of friends for social events, but Kyoda said he always declines.

"I'm busy—I can't go with him because I study on weekends," he said.

While none of these ESL students complained of loneliness, on-campus isolation is common, especially on school holidays.

Taiwanese student Tzu-I Chen admitted that most holidays are spent in her room watching television. In fact, none of these international students said they had been invited to spend holidays off campus in private homes.

Kyoda stays at Avila over breaks, passing the time with his Japanese friends, cooking familiar food from home. He would have declined an invitation from Henry even if one had been offered.

"My English is not good enough," he said.

And so the 10 students in Sheffer's listening and speaking class continue to struggle to become comfortable with a language they traveled across the world to learn. Immersing themselves in American culture and college life at Avila proves to be challenging. The class interview session ended with this question. "Are Avila students friendly and helpful?"

After a moment of silence, one barely audible reply was, "Some are friendly."

The flip side of the dilemma is illustrated by Henry's observation that the international students tend to stick together.

"It's a phenomenon," he said. "In the cafeteria the Russians sit together and all the Japanese sit together."

And so, the ESL students continue to practice their English at 11:00 a.m. Monday through Friday in Marilyn Sheffer's listening and speaking class.

Wanted: Avila citizens to celebrate their world

by Satomi Ishikawa

Every year the Peace Bell at the United Nations rings on the Equinox, to toll the beginning of spring and to celebrate the natural wonders of our planet.

It was the bell a newsboy in New York might have heard in the morning. Or a school girl in Sweden.

Earth Day was first proclaimed by San Francisco in 1970. Designating the first day of spring, March 21, to be Earth Day, this day was later sanctioned by the United Nations, where it is observed each year.

Along with the growing awareness of the importance of environmental protection, Earth Day became firmly established worldwide. It is the day to realize the importance and greatness of nature and to deepen reverence and care for Mother Earth.

As people feel the coming of spring every year, there are many Earth Day events held all over the world. The United States, the nation that proclaimed the first Earth Day, has been actively involved in this event from individual to organizational levels.

Avila College has been participating in the event for eight years. Calling it Campus Beautification Day, Avila holds some activities every spring to commemorate Earth Day.

Each year, volunteer students, faculty, staff and alumni spend time planting flowers, trees and shrubs around campus. Last year, participants planted 82 types of vegetation around campus. Earth Day activities at Avila also include general cleanup, such as picking up litter and raking leaves. After the work, all the volunteers are invited to an outdoor picnic hosted by Dr. Larry Kramer, president of Avila College.

According to Dave Melton, coordinator of Earth Day activities, this year's activities will be the same.

Melton added that they received $200 from the Student Senate to purchase flowers, shrubs and trees to be planted in the activity.

Although the activity usually averages 25 volunteers each year, there is no limit.

"We could have 50, or even more," Melton said.

Melton also mentioned that the majority of the volunteers are mostly either faculty, staff, or alumni.

"In the past, there haven't been many student participants," he said.

Melton said this might be because the event is underpublicized, the time (weekday afternoon) conflicts with class schedule, or students are involved in spring sports.

"But we do want to begin to see an expanding group of students who will participate with us and help volunteer on this day, so we invite you out," Melton said.

Melton said each year the number of student participants averages two or three.

"We would like to see, at least, maybe a dozen or so," he said.

On April 21, people will not hear the Peace Bell, but volunteers working on the Avila campus might hear the footsteps of spring.

1997 Campus Beautification Day

When: April 21
2:30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

Where: Blasco Hall

Details: Encouraged to bring rake and garden tools. 5 p.m. outdoor picnic hosted by Dr. Kramer.

Contact: Dave Melton, Blasco Hall, or call ext. 2375.

Rain date: next available sunny day

Avila's author in residence

by Patti Barnes

What began as her dissertation in 1993 will soon be released as Nancy Cervetti's first book. Cervetti, assistant professor of English and director of Women's Studies, specializes in the areas of feminist theory and 19th century British literature. Her interest and work in this area unfolds when her first book, *Subversive Texts: How Bronti, Eliot and Woolf Transform Romance*, is published by the end of this year.

Cervetti taught English part-time at Drake University in Des Moines, Iowa, for five years while studying for her Masters. She also spent five years teaching part-time at the University of Iowa, while studying for her Ph.D. Cervetti's teaching career at Avila began in the fall of 1993. She teaches English, composition and Women's Studies. Cervetti says she especially enjoys teaching Composition I, because it gives her the opportunity to "meet first year students and to stay in touch with them."

Cervetti is a distinguished and honored writer. While *Subversive Texts: How Bronti, Eliot and Woolf Transform Romance* is her first book, she is well-published in journals including *Women's Studies* and the *Journal of Modern Literature*.

Nineteenth century British literature was Cervetti's study for her dissertation. While working on her Ph.D. at the University of Iowa, she spent two years writing, defending, researching, and revising her dissertation into manuscript form to prepare for her book. Cervetti said it took a lot of research and literary criticism to transform her dissertation into a manuscript.

In her book, Cervetti includes biographical information about authors Charlotte Bronti, George Eliot and Virginia Woolf and compares their lives to those of the female heroines created in their novels. She identifies the way the authors and heroines challenge tradition and bring about change.

Cervetti's book will be part of a series devoted to feminist studies on past and contemporary women authors. This literary series is entitled *Writing About Women: Feminist Literary Studies* and is edited by Esther K. Labovitz, professor at Pace University in New York. Cervetti learned of the series while surfing the Internet.

Cervetti's book goes to the publisher May 30, 1997, and will be in print by the end of the year. She is already working on another book.

Romance does not make true love

by Kelly Corsaut

Romance is hard to find in today's world. True love is even harder to find. *The Rivals* is an enlightening look at the games played during the search for love and romance. It gives us lighthearted insight into an age-old problem: how to find the right person. In my opinion, it doesn't give us any answers; however, it does give us some ideas about what not to do.

Theater Review

The play *The Rivals* is surprisingly enjoyable. The dialogue, though challenging, is understandable if the focus is put on the meaning of an entire quote rather than trying to understand each individual word. There is a lot of historical information that is a part of the play, but even with limited knowledge of the period, or England, the message is easily understood. The theme of the play is one that relates to most people; love and the different things people do in the name of love. This issue is one of timelessness and controversy.

"What appears to be romance is not necessarily true love"

The Rivals tells the story of two young women and the men who woo them. The two women, Lydia, played by Sayra Player, and Julia, played by Jennifer Kiple, are cousins and great friends; but, they are very different from each other. The play centers around the problems each faces in their relationships.

Lydia is very much in love with romance. She is always striving for the perfect romantic setting and searching for the perfect romance novel. Her guardian aunt, played by Lisa Ann Bailey, desires for Lydia to marry the young and wealthy Captain Absolute, played by Chris Holler. Lydia, naturally, fights this with all of her might. She wants amour. She wants someone to love her for who she is, or at least who she portrays. Lydia spends her days dreaming about such a man, her beloved Beverly. His correspondence is full of assurance of his affection. In them, he represents himself as a low-ranking military man who, like Lydia, is unconcerned with wealth and longs to run off and wed her. He seems to be thoughtless of the inheritance that will be forfeited if Lydia should marry below her social status. This would be in direct defiance of her aunt's wishes and straight out of a romance novel; therefore, Lydia is extremely taken with the idea, much more so than with the man.

As the secrets behind Lydia's relationships with Captain Absolute and Beverly are disclosed, misrepresentation is shown as a common characteristic in all three parties. Somehow amidst the confusion that ensues, Lydia and her beloved come through it together. I get the feeling that this will not be a happy ending for them. The relationship is based on half truths and dishonesty. Therefore, it is doomed.

Julia, conversely is level-headed and enjoys her life rather than the fiction that the imagination can concoct. She also has a love interest, and his name is Faulkland, played by J. Michael Adams. Her love for him is pure and honest. Julia's contented and confident demeanor allows her to be independent and enjoy herself even when they are not together. Unfortunately, Faulkland does not share her confidence, and he views things more cynically. Questioning Julia's every move, he constantly tests her love for him. Once these tests are revealed, Julia removes herself from the relationship. She realizes that, although her feelings for Faulkland are real and deep, she cannot continue to prove her love for him, nor should she be asked to do so.

"The Rivals is full of overlapping misrepresentations."

Hearing the wake up call from Julia, Faulkland comes to grips with his own insecurities and begs her forgiveness. He pledges his love for Julia and acknowledges his shortcomings. Julia, who cannot deny her love for him, agrees to give their relationship another chance.

I can appreciate Julia's decision. Unlike Lydia, Julia is true to herself and to Faulkland. She looks for honesty in a relationship, and hopes that the romance will be part of that, more than she looks for romance. She is not willing to sacrifice integrity. I am left with the impression that Julia and Faulkland share true love and will make it.

Julia has the last word in the play. Although I felt that Lydia was portrayed as the main character, Julia was the appropriate choice for the delivery of the final monologue. She is the one character that was genuine from the play's start to finish. Unfortunately, the final words were the most difficult lines in the play to understand. I only truly understood what she was saying by participating in a discussion with the Avila faculty and the cast at the end of the play.

The Rivals is full of overlapping misrepresentations. The play itself represents Lydia and Beverly (Captain Absolute) as the central figures, but when the smoke created by deceit and jealousy clears, it is Julia and Faulkland's relationship that gives us the ray of hope that true love is possible. Perhaps this is a point the play is trying to make; what appears to be romance is not necessarily true love.

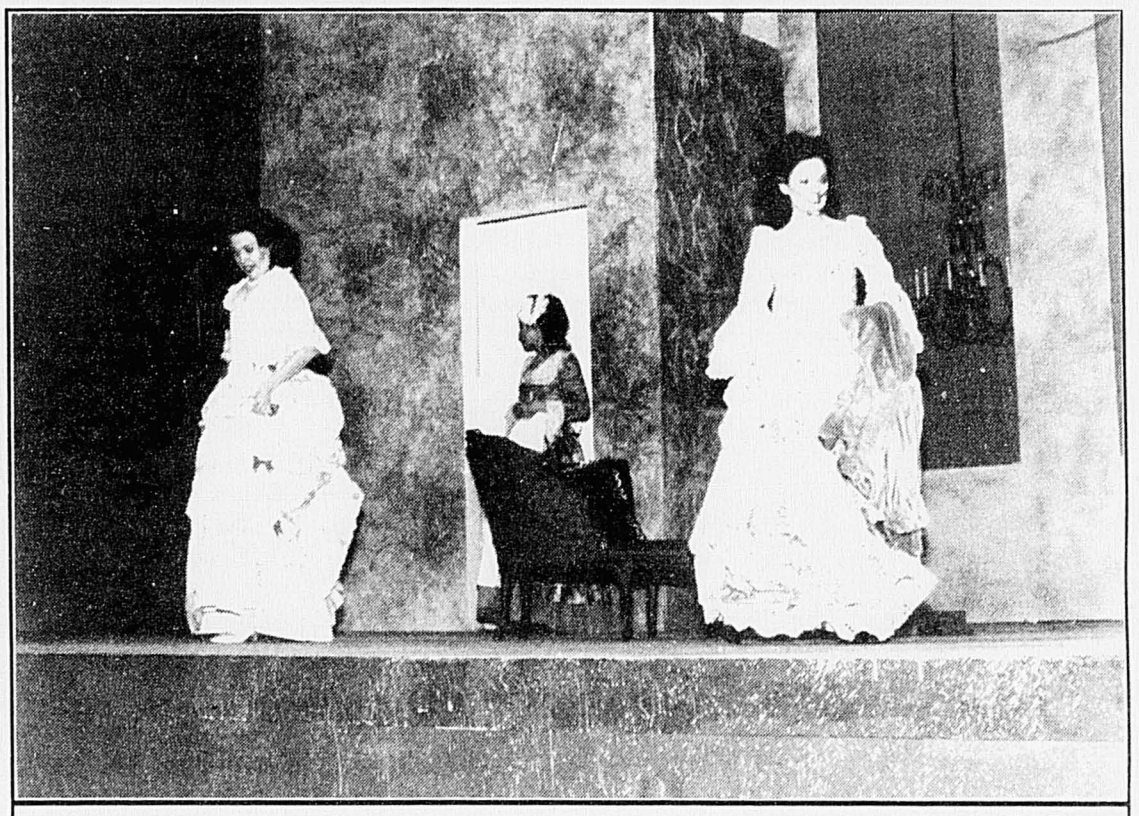


photo by Clay Ransom

The Rivals was performed in the Goppert Theater. Lydia, played by Sayra Player, and Julia, played by Jennifer Kiple, share secrets on the fine art of romance.

Co-Sponsored by UMKC

Take Part in a World-Class Travel Seminar this Summer.

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People to People International, in affiliation with the University of Missouri-Kansas City, presents a series of field-specific courses which are designed to offer collegians and careerists personal interaction with prominent professionals in various European cities.

2-to-4 week sessions (mid June-early July) 3 to 6 credit hours (including graduate) Interested non-students also welcome.

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Kansas Ciy, MO 64109
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home page: <http://cei.haag.umkc.edu/ptp>

KC Calendar

Art

Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art, 4525 Oak. *Dream House*, familiar works viewed from a postmodern perspective. Through Sept. 14. *The Prints of John S. DeMartelly*. Through May 18. For more information, call 751-ART.

Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art and Design, 4420 Warwick. *Michael Lucero: Sculpture 1976-1995.* Through July 6. For more information, cal 561-3737.

Music

The Kansas City Symphony Nightlights Pops Concert, Yardley Hall, Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd. Featuring *Manhattan Transfer,* 8 p.m., April 30. For more information, call 469-4445.

Itzhak Perlman performs with The Kansas City Symphony, RLDS Auditorium. May 5, 8 p.m. For more information, call 471-0400.

Theater

Mercy Killing. The Unicorn Theater, 3820 Main. April 25 through May 11. Winner of the National Playwright Award. For more information, call 531-PLAY.

Dial M for Murder. The American Heartland Theater, Crown Center, 2450 Grand. Through May 11. For more information, call 842-9999.

Designing a future

by Cathleen Flint

Senior Shea Lauffer describes Avila's graphic art experience. "Good experience, fun and definitely interesting."

Lauffer grew up down the road in Olathe and graduated from Olathe North High School.

At the age of 22, she still resides in Olathe with her husband Rob and their yellow lab, Max.

One of the projects that she has been working on at Avila is the new Avila student handbook, which involves the efforts from three different programs.

Students from the communication and graphic arts programs are collaborating with Karl Yehle and Jeff Randolph in the community relations department to work on several advertising, marketing, and public relations projects.

Students also working on the student handbook include Jessica Brice, Brad Quick, Kelly Turner, and Ben Henry.

Due to the format of the student handbook, Lauffer and the others have to be very detail oriented.

After the handbook is done, it will go into her portfolio, with other projects she has completed.

Lauffer also has created murals for people's homes, as well as producing murals for the City of Olathe and Olathe North High School.

Her hobbies and interests include horseback riding, drawing, painting, and ballet. Dancing and the ballet have been part of her life for 17 years.

The senior graphics art show will feature some of the best of Lauffer's work in the Thornhill Gallery.

The gallery opening reception will be held on May 9 from 7 to 9 p.m. The show will be in the gallery through May 18.

Lauffer also designed the announcement of the senior show the art program sent out.

Lauffer hopes to continue to put her artistic abilities to work as she graduates in May.

Lady Eagles spend Spring Break on the road through Midwest

by Kari Donnell

With the first portion of the season behind them, the Avila women's softball team is looking to continue their winning ways. Currently at 12-7 and 2-0 in the Midlands Collegiate Athletic Conference (MCAC). The Eagles will soon face stiff competition from opponents like Mid-America Nazarene College, and rival Missouri Valley College.

While most of us were soaking in the sun or hitting the slopes on Spring Break, the softball team was in the midst of fierce competition. The team traveled through Kansas, Oklahoma, and Texas to challenge teams in those states. With an even record of 3-3 after the trip, the team felt that they had accomplished a great deal.

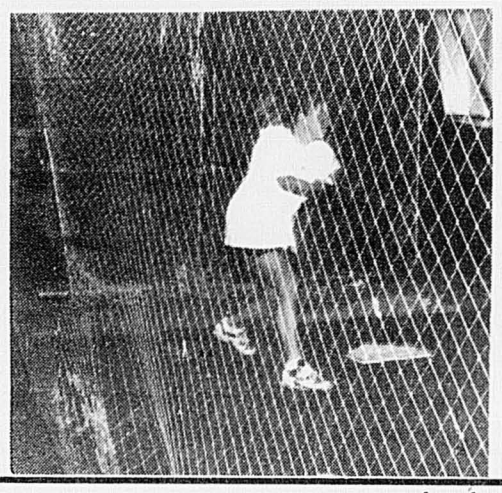


photo by Joy Hyde

Below freezing temperatures have prevented the ladies from playing, but Becky Koettker, above, continues to perfect her swing.

Much of the Eagles' success this season is accredited to their total team effort. However, certain individuals have managed to obtain top honors. Sophomore Katie Koettker was named MCAC pitcher of the week earlier this season. Koettker, who was not the top pitching choice in the pre-season, received the prestigious honor while competing against Park, St. Mary, and Westmar Colleges.

Julie Turner also made a valiant effort for the Eagles offensive game, as she swung for the fences and came away with one grand slam and another solo home run. As a whole, the team's batting average rounds to an impressive .355.

The last chance to see the Lady Eagles is Apr. 19 as they match up against Missouri Valley, here at Avila.

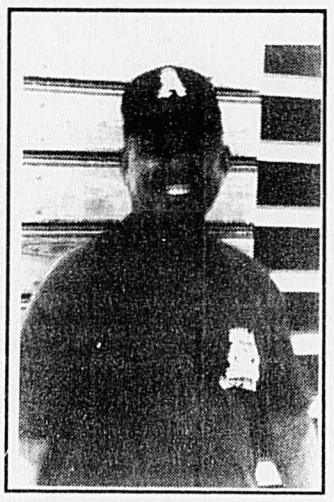
Gault new head coach

Melton steps down

by Amanda Nedrud

There is a new face on the Avila Eagles softball team. It belongs to new head coach Dennis Gault. Although his title does not officially start until next season, Gault is looking forward to coaching.

"I'm really excited about being here," Gault said. "Softball is really a big passion in my life and I'm really glad I have been given an opportunity here at Avila."



Gault came to Avila from California, where he spent eight years coaching. When he came to Kansas City, he was immediately named as an assistant for the Avila Eagles baseball team. After coaching the baseball team for two years, Gault was recruited to be an assistant coach for the softball team.

"Dennis is a stud," sophomore first baseman Becky Koettker said. "He really knows his stuff and is good with the girls."

"He is really positive and confident about the team, which makes us positive and confident about ourselves," sophomore catcher Julie Turner said. "He shows a lot of enthusiasm and that drives us to do really well."

Gault will take the title from Dave Melton, who stepped down because of a larger work load. All is not lost though, Melton will be back as an assistant coach.

"I have always had a goal to take Avila softball to a national level and with a larger work load I feel I can only do so much," Melton said. "I wanted someone who was competent and knowledgeable enough to run the team. Dennis is an all around great guy and I have lots of confidence in him."

Melton steps down as head coach with a record of 114-108 over a period of six years as head coach. Over that period of time he has put together a softball program that has been regionally ranked. He has also instituted fall softball and organized tournaments, which are among the most popular around.

"Dave is a great guy. He has made a lot of changes for Avila softball and really took us far," Turner said. "I'm glad that he'll continue to work with the program as much as he can."

Gophers call Avila home during tournament

by Amanda Nedrud

What do the University of Minnesota and Avila College have in common?

Both have hosted the number one seed in the midwest region, the Minnesota Golden Gophers.

The Minnesota Golden Gophers recently visited Avila College, as they needed a place to practice for their games at Kemper Arena.

Minnesota knew about Avila because one of their assistant coaches was part of the NCAA team that plays at Avila College. According to Athletic Director Mike Crozier, Minnesota was looking to practice at a small, quiet campus with little disruption.

Minnesota earned their number one seed in the midwest region by finishing their season 27-3. They beat such teams as South Carolina and Clemson. However, many fans and sports critics didn't think Minnesota was quite the team their record showed. They were perceived throughout the season as the underdog team.

A big part of their success was due to Bobby Jackson and Eric Harris. Jackson, a 6 foot 1 senior, was selected as second team All-American by the U.S. Basketball Writers Association. Harris, a 6 foot 3 junior, averaged 12 points a game.

Unfortunately for Jackson and Harris, their ride came to an end. Minnesota was knocked off by Kentucky in the Final Four. Hey, there is always next year.

Sporting my mind

by Monica Bullock

The great American pastime is back and in full swing for the 1997 season. A lot of off-season trades and deals were made and fans hope that it will help in getting their team to the World Series. However, some of these off-season shenanigans have me wondering if the huge salaries and the notoriety will still bring fans to the ball park.

First stop, Chicago. The Cubs are at a dismal 0-10 and didn't really do any off-season trading, and their record shows that.

The White Sox, on the other hand, spent millions of dollars to get free agent outfielder Albert Belle. First baseman Frank Thomas was ecstatic about acquiring Belle, because it will take a lot of the pressure off him with Belle hitting behind him. This new revival of the Chicago bash brothers, both are currently hitting under .250 with no home runs.

Next stop, Atlanta. The Braves had one big name player join their ranks. However, that was with two weeks to go in spring training. A lot of players did leave the Braves organization though. Free agent Steve Avery joined the Boston Red Sox. The team traded David Justice to Cleveland for Kenny Lofton and another player.

Atlanta also let go of hot prospect Jermaine Dye and pitcher Jamie Walker to the Royals for Michael Tucker and Keith Lockhart. Tucker is playing the best baseball of his career in Atlanta while Lockhart has seen limited play.

For the Royals, Dye is just now starting to get out of his hitting slump, and Walker has pitched fairly well in the games that he has played.

Third stop, St. Louis. As the oldest team in Major League Baseball, it is surprising that the Cardinals do not have a better record than they do. Currently, the Cardinals would be last in every division in both leagues if this was the end of the season. With all of the veteran players on this team, most of them are on the disabled list. Obviously something is missing.

Last stop, Kansas City. The Royals did very little off-season dealing, and most fans were worried that this year was going to be like last year: rookie players, and finishing last in the division. By aquiring Jay Bell and Jeff King from Pittsburgh, the Royals were saying that this year was going to be different. Some experts say that the Royals could come from nowhere and surprise everyone this year.

Finally, the one thing that I think was the smartest thing Major League Baseball could have done to bring fans back to the game was introducing inter-league play. The Royals will play in Wrigley Field in Chicago against the Cubs, and the Cardinals are coming to town for the first time since the 1985 World Series.

This baseball season will be full of the typical highs and lows that plague every team in the majors. Yet, this year the Royals can see if the Cubs

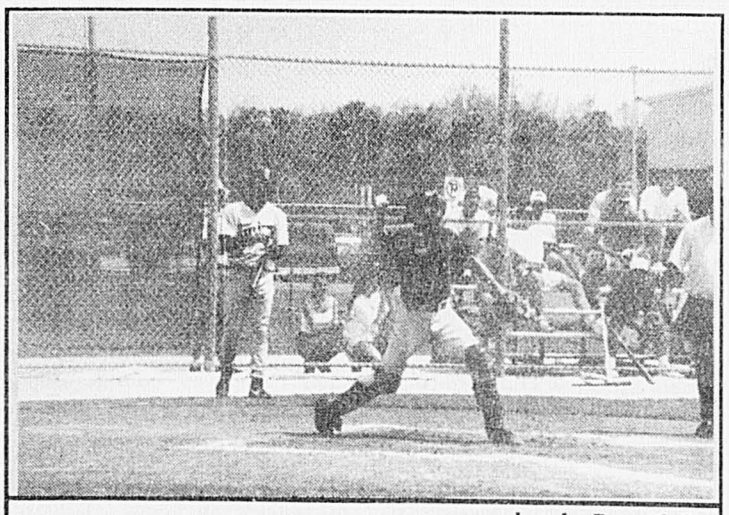


photo by Dave Sheller

The men have not seen very much sun since their Spring Break trip to Florida. While in Florida, the Eagles played the Minnesota Twins farm team in Ft. Myers. Catcher Adam Holst, above, bolted up to throw out the runner at second. The men battled through nine competitive innings, but the Twins won by the score of 5-2.

Final Home Games for the 1997 Avila Baseball Team

April 18	Evangel College	2 p.m.
19	Peru State University	11 a.m.
20	Kansas Newman College	1 p.m.
24	Mid-America Nazarene	2 p.m.
26	College of the Ozarks	2 p.m
27	Bellevue University	TBA
29	Rockhurst College	3 p.m.
30	William Jewel College	3 p.m.
May 2	Central Methodist College	2 p.m.
4	Culver-Stockton College	1 p.m.

Final Home Games for the 1997 Avila Softball Team

April 18	Kansas Newman College	2:30 p.m.
19	Missouri Valley College	11 a.m.

To spit or not to spit. . . that is the question

by Ben Henry

An official college policy?

The "use of non-smoking tobacco, which is held in the mouth and where either tobacco or saliva are expelled into a receptacle or the air, shall be considered similar to smoking tobacco in regard to its allowed use in classrooms and public areas."

This new policy was prompted by numerous complaints, made by students to their instructors, about fellow students chewing tobacco in class. Up until now, those instructors could only reply that there was no rule that prohibited such behavior.

The habit of chewing tobacco is fairly harmless to those around. Unlike cigarettes and other smoking tobaccos, chewing tobacco has no physically harmful effects on people near or within close proximity of the person chewing. However, once students put a "dip" in their lower lip, they will have to spit several times before removing the tobacco from their mouth. To many, this necessary evil that results from the act of chewing tobacco is as repulsive or distracting as second-hand smoke. And that, apparently, is why it "shall be considered similar to smoking tobacco in regard to its allowed use in classrooms and public areas."

Chewing tobacco produces the same effect as does smoking cigarettes; both methods are a delivery system of nicotine (a drug that causes dependency) to the bloodstream. While it may not be convenient for a nicotine addict to abstain for an hour or so from getting a fix, it is not too much to ask. That is why this new policy is beneficial to the college community without seriously inconveniencing a select group of individuals. Smokers have been doing as much for a very long time.

Speaking of smokers, our beloved campus is covered with cigarette filters. It is not uncommon to see a patch of terra firma blanketed by discarded butts. The college could help to remedy the problem by providing more canisters for proper disposal, but it is really the job of smokers, myself included, to do our part in keeping the campus beautiful.

How and why we do the things that we do is something only each one of us can decide for ourselves. Whatever the means, whatever the reason, let's make an effort to be courteous to others if we must do these things.

THE TALON

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The Talon encourages letters to the editor. Letters should be typed and must include writer's signature, name, address and telephone number for verification. Letters can be mailed to *The Talon* Editor, Avila College, 11901 Wornall Rd., Kansas City, Mo. 64145, or may be brought to *The Talon* mailbox in Dallavis Center. Letters may also be submitted via e-mail at Talon@mail.avila.edu or you may leave a message on voice mail at 942-8400, extension 3253.

Please keep letters to 300 words or less. *The Talon* reserves the right to edit letters for reason of space, clarity or inappropriate language. The writer's name will accompany all published letters.

Sniper training anyone?

by Katie Wilkerson

How would you like to attend the School of the Americas? Located in lovely Fort Benning, GA, the school offers classes such as Commando Operations, Sniper Training, Counter-Insurgency Techniques, Intelligence Gathering, Psychological Warfare, and Low Intensity Conflict.

When was the last time Avila or the United States taxpayers paid for you to have weekend trips to Disney World or an Atlanta Braves Game? Attend the School of the Americas and these fieldtrips can be your reward for a semester of hard work.

Upon graduation, the school has a placement program that will send you to exotic Latin American countries such as El Salvador, Peru, Ecuador, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, and Bolivia.

It will be your job to persecute andkill peasants, rebel guerrillas, priests, nuns, and other subversives. If you are really lucky and study hard, one day you may follow in the footsteps of the school's esteemed graduates such as Manuel Noriega, and become the dictator of your very own third world nation.

While this may seem like a sick joke, it isn't. All of these descriptions of the School of the Americas are completely accurate.

The school was started in Panama in 1946 by the United States government and its mission was to promote peace and stability in the region. In 1984, the school was relocated to Fort Benning due to terms in the Panama Canal Treaty.

Catholic priest Father Roy Bourgeois has been struggling for six years to get the "School of the Assassins" closed forever.

Bourgeois recently spoke in Kansas City to a crowd who came as far away as Omaha and Columbia. He described the horrors of what this school has done against peace and justice in Latin America.

The 1993 Truth Commission reports done by the US government after the Salvadoran Civil War, pointed the finger of blame for the atrocities that occurred at the school.

In the assassination of Archbishop Oscar Romero, one of our century's greatest advocates of peace, two out of the three involved were School of the Americas graduates.

In the rape and murder of four *American* churchwomen, three of the five graduated from the school.

In the 1989 murders of six Jesuit priests, their housekeeper and her daughter, 19 of the 26 had been trained in Georgia.

In the El Mozote Massacre, which claimed 700 lives, 10 of the 12 were "School of the Assassins" graduates.

It is difficult to understand why the United States would continue to train these Latin Americans to kill in a world that is always striving towards the ideal of peace.

There is one simple word to answer the question of "Why?" That answer is simply American economic dominance. When will the United States realize that training murderers to maintain stability is not the answer? Even when our own citizens were killed, nothing was done.

Democratic Representative Joseph Kennedy, is supporting Bill HR 611 which will close the school forever. Congress will vote on the bill next week. Father Bourgeois is planning a five day protest fast on the Capitol steps starting April 20.

Support for the bill is needed. Hopefully it will be passed into law and the "School of the Assassins" will vanish forever.

CAMPUS TALK

Q: Do you smoke or chew tobacco? Should students be allowed to chew tobacco in class? Why or why not?



Yes. Not if I can't smoke.

Jay Theis,
Assistant Professor of Political Science



Yes. No, because we smokers should be allowed to smoke in class. By the way, chewing is disgusting.
Rodrigue Watonsi, Mathematics/ Computer Science



No, no. Why? It is rude to the instructors and it supports being a slave to the tobacco industry.
Tim Coleman, Political Science/Pre-law



No. Yes, as long as it does not disrupt class.
Marcus Hernandez, Political Science



I am a social smoker. I don't think students should chew in class. Because it is nasty and can be distracting if they are constantly spitting.
Rachel Mueller, Radiology

Martin City serves up "Les Hit"

by Sheri Porter

Slap on some jeans, pack up some friends and head south to Martin City Melodrama and Vaudeville Co., just a few minutes south of Avila at 135th and Holmes. Prepare yourself for a rowdy adventure because this is live, interactive comedy at its best.

On April 4, Martin City Melodrama welcomed patrons to its 70th original show with "Les Hit-Or-Miserables," a parody of Victor Hugo's classic "Les Miserables."

Artistic director Jeanne Beechwood pointed out that she has given this classic dramatic story a unique comic twist. Only at Martin City would "Les Miserables" include appearances by Groucho Marx, The Three Stooges, and Madonna.

"Whether a show is a comedy, a Broadway musical or melodrama, it's nothing unless you have a good story," Beechwood said. "This is a phenomenal story."

Shooting for historical accuracy, Martin City producers seat patrons close together in a large open room with ceiling fans overhead and sawdust on the floor. A pianist plunks out honky tonk tunes on an old upright piano, while the snack bar serves up hot dogs, popcorn, and sarsaparilla (no liquor allowed in this family environment). Hissing, booing, and laughing aloud are strongly encouraged.

At Martin City you get two shows for the price of one. Following the melodrama is an equally entertaining and completely original vaudeville show entitled "Army Antics." With a 1940s flavor and fashioned after an American USO show, these vaudeville style numbers will have you howling in your seats. Watch for appearances by Elvis Presley and the Andrews Sisters.

Tickets to this show would make a perfect gift for your graduating friends because one number dresses the cast in graduation robes sewn in army fatigue fabric.

Beechwood said, "We've used lots of velcro for this show," meaning there are multiple costume changes for the small but talented cast of eight.

If home-style cooking sounds good, go hungry and enjoy the optional pre-show buffet serving up mountains of food. Evening performances run Thursday to Sunday and begin at 8 p.m. Tickets start at $8.99 (show only) and $14.99 (dinner and show).

Take a group of 10 and receive a discount. The best option for meager student budgets is the 4:30 p.m. Saturday matinee, a real bargain at $4.99 (show only). Sunday afternoon's 3 p.m. show is only $6.99.

"Les Hit-Or-Miserables" runs through May 18. Call ahead for reservations at 942-7576 because this 195 seat house often sells out.

★★ HOROSCOPES ★★

by Rebecca Rand

The following should be read for entertainment value only. No truth is forecasted. The stars represent ratings for the month with ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ representing a superior month.

Aries (Mar. 21 - Apr. 19)★★★ Keep things simple. Smart choices are key right now. Listen to others and you will come out ahead Your stars are in line for a new relationship near the end of the month.

Taurus (Apr. 20 - May 20)★★★★ Listen to all offers then plan a roadtrip with friends. You are in the center of it all and able to manage. Keep your spirits high, and forget about life for a while.

Gemini (May 21 - Jun. 20)★ Take a backseat and listen carefully to what others are saying. There is more going on around you than you are aware. Don't let a bumpy road get you down.

Cancer (Jun. 21 - Jul. 22) ★★★Financial matters are of some concern but don't fret. It will be ok. You are a survivor and know how to get things done. Take time to look up an old friend.

Leo (Jul. 23 - Aug. 22)★★★★★ Hard work finally pays off. You have new insight to an old problem. Let go and look to the future. A surprise is around the corner. Share it with friends and family.

Virgo (Aug. 23 - Sept. 22)★★ Take time to listen to friends and relatives. A gesture of goodwill is much appreciated and will come back to you.

Libra (Sept. 23 - Oct. 22) ★★★★★ Opportunity abounds and excitement is at an all time high. Hang on for the ride and take others with you.

Scorpio (Oct. 23 - Nov. 21) ★★★ Get a head start on deadlines. But don't get overwhelmed with the details. Others come to you for advise but be leery of getting involved. This month stay close to home.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22 - Dec. 21)★★★★★ Road blocks turn out to be pebbles in your path. Show your appreciation to those around you with several random acts of kindness. Look to the future with excitement.

Capricorn (Dec. 22 - Jan. 19)★★ Your caring side emerges.You are able to clear the air with a friend. Be open to new ideas and unusual solutions will surprise you with great outcomes.

Aquarius (Jan. 20 - Feb. 18)★ Be honest with yourself and others. Take a stand and don't compromise your values.

Pisces (Feb. 19 - Mar. 20)★★★★ You are personality plus. Help a friend who is at a crossroad see a new perspective. Trust your judgement and accept an invitation.

Reunion at Grosse Pointe

by Monica Bullock

"What have you been doing for the past 10 years?"

"I am a professional hitman." Yet no one believes him.

In *Grosse Pointe Blank* John Cusack plays Martin Blank, a down on his luck professional hitman that decides to go back for his 10 year high school reunion. A lot of people in Grosse Pointe, Mich. are glad to see Blank when he returns from the place where he so mysteriously disappeared on prom night.

Blank decides that his next job is going to be his last, and it just happens that it takes place in Grosse Pointe. So he decides to go back to the reunion in hopes that he will see his old flame, Debi (Minnie Driver), that he left waiting on prom night.

Blank is warned about going back to the reunion, because of the experience that his business partner, played by Cusack's sister, Joan, had during her past experiences; "It was as if everyone had swelled."



Following Blank to Grosse Pointe is his arch nemesis Grocer, played by the very funny Dan Aykroyd, and two federal agents just waiting for Blank to mess up.

The screenplay was well written and it should have been considering that four writers, including Cusack, were credited for their work.

The writers showed what would have happened to Blank had past 10 years had eluded him.

Director George Armitage does a good job in balancing the violence and comedy parts in the movie. The constant bickering and tension between Cusack and Driver reminds the viewer of watching a tennis match.

Another kick with this movie is the soundtrack that accompanies the movie. For all you 1980 music buffs, this movie is for you. Music from the Violent Femmes, Guns and Roses, and other hit music makers in the 80s are featured in this movie.

Despite some violent scenes, most of the movie is very humorous. *Grosse Pointe Blank* is a movie worth seeing.

Kilmer as a saint?

by Mary Lopez

The forever Batman is Batman no longer. Actor Val Kilmer turned down the role for this summer's upcoming *Batman and Robin* in order to do *The Saint*. Kilmer plays a James Bond like thief-for-hire in this new action adventure film.

This predictable poorly written film begins with Simon Templar (Kilmer) pulling off one of his thefts from a Russian politician.

He is then hired by the same politician he stole from to steal a secret formula being developed for cold fusion.

The scientist he plans stealing from turns out to be a beautiful woman (Elisabeth Shue). What would this movie be without at least one bedroom scene?

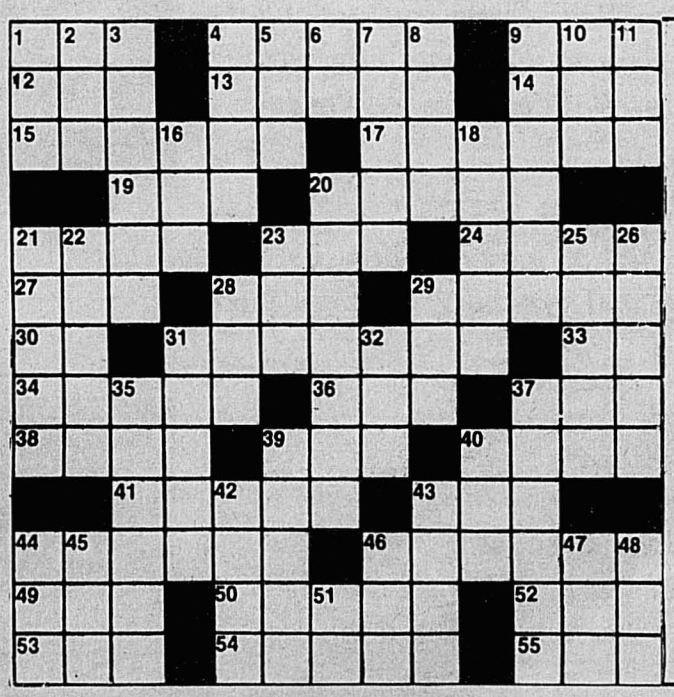
Conflict in the film arises when he falls in love with her. He breaks his deal to steal the formula. Then the Russian politician threatens to kill her if he does not. The story gets worse from there.

The best part was seeing Kilmer in the different disguises his character uses to hide himself.

Shue's shallow character was very disappointing as a lovesick school girl.

The fact that she runs to the man who totally betrays her and tells him that she loves him is insane. At the end of the movie, she wants to know when she will see him again. He replies with "I'll find you."

It is time to ask yourself, "Who writes this stuff?"



ACROSS
1. Small amount
4. Sleight of hand
9. Baby's apron
12. Winglike
13. Lesson
14. Fish eggs
15. Erase
17. Border
19. Sheltered from the wind
20. Change
21. Go lightly over
23. Sullivan and Murphy
24. Astir
27. Small mass
28. Curved wheel
29. Severe
30. Morning (abbr.)
31. Runs
33. Leave
34. Newspapers, etc.
36. --Rogers (cowboy)
39. Feline
40. Grape drink
41. Design transfer
43. Age
44. French brandy
46. Departure
49. Gorilla
50. Jewish spiritual leader
52. Direction (abbr.)
53. Each
54. Uncertainty
55. Soak flax

DOWN
1. Father
2. Brew
3. Narrative poem
4. Spouse
5. Presidential nickname
6. Southern state (abbr.)
7. Newspaper articles
8. Surrender
9. Span
10. Atom
11. Entreaty
16. Even (poetic)
18. Pesky bugs
20. Navy officer
21. Bog
22. Engraving in relief
23. Auricle
25. Musical instrument
26. Dwarflike creature
28. Auditor (abbr.)
29. Pig's home
31. Warning device
32. In no way
35. Evader
37. Obstruct
39. Evergreen (tropical Amer.)
40. Seek affection
42. Ace
43. Depart
44. Hat
45. Open (poetic)
46. Recede
47. Employ
48. Place
51. Bushel (abbr.)